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Spelling

I before E except after C

In school children learn a famous phrase to help with a common spelling problem.

"I before E except after C"

In words that have a combination of *i* and *e*, usually the *i* comes before the *e*, except after the letter *c*.

ie	ei (after c)
believe	ceiling
friend	deceive
belief	receive
piece	perceive
chief	deceit

Unfortunately, there are many exceptions to this rule. In words where the combination of letters has a long *a* sound, *e* comes before *i* even if there is no *c*.

eight
weigh
freight

Some words don't follow any of the rules from above.

weird
neither
foreign